



*State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913*  
*PH (517) 373.6960 | FAX (517) 373.0897*  
*[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/jelinek/)*

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Contact: Sen. Ron Jelinek  
1-866-305-2121

## **Families and Michigan tourism would benefit with post-Labor Day school start**

**LANSING** – Michigan parents, students and tourism-related business owners would gain by starting schools after Labor Day under legislation approved by the Senate on Tuesday, said Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

House Bill 4803 would mandate a post Labor Day start, allowing families to take longer trips in August and during the holiday weekend without missing school.

“Schools now have a new tool to help them plan their school year by fulfilling an hours requirement rather than a days requirement, allowing them to plan a calendar that starts after Labor Day,” Jelinek said. “In these times when schools need more money to operate, it also is necessary for them to cooperate with the tourism industry to help generate more revenue. Two thirds of all additional sales taxes collected will go to School Aid.”

Starting school after Labor Day would generate an estimated \$10 million more in tourism-related tax revenue for the state. The added tourism also would create an estimated 2,000 new jobs and between \$100 million and \$200 million in economic activity.

One recent poll found nearly two-thirds of Michigan voters supported having schools open after Labor Day, showing widespread public support for the change.

Under HB 4803, if a collective bargaining agreement conflicts with the provisions of the bill, the law would not apply until after the expiration date of the collective-bargaining agreement.

The bill now goes back to the House of Representatives for consideration of Senate changes.

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